

Haydon (Bud) Cooper  
September 25, 2007

Interviewed by Elaine Carr at Mr. Coopers' home at 160 Center Street, Myton  
Daughter, Kathleen Cooper, was also in present.

Elaine: Haydon, where and when were you born?

Bud: I was born January 7, 1922 in Myton, Utah. I was born just a block and a half over here, down Main Street a block and a half. The home is still down there. It's been added on and made bigger since then. I've lived here practically all my life. I took a few trips out of the Basin but this has been home for eighty-five years anyway.

Elaine: When did your parents come to the Basin?

Bud: My grandparents came in 1885 to Whiterocks, Utah. They moved from Kentucky. The grandparents came to Whiterocks; he had got a government contract to run the Indian Trading Post in Whiterocks. They ran that for seventeen years. Then they sold it. They went to Vernal for one year and had a little store. In 1902 they came to Myton and bought a building which he converted into a store.

At that time Myton was known as the Bridge. Myton was on a freight route from Price to Fort Duchesne and Vernal. There were soldiers at Fort Duchesne. The government made a bridge across the Duchesne River to get supplies across. Before that they had to ford the river. The place was known as "The Bridge". Everybody referred to it as "The Bridge" on the Duchesne River. My Grandfather had the post office in his little store. The mail came to "The Bridge". In fact we have some letters that was addressed to "The Bridge".

Elaine: Did they say The Bridge, Utah?

Bud: Finally the postal department decided that they could no longer send mail to "The Bridge" in Utah. There were too many bridges. So they had to have an official name. By that time Major H. P. Myton had come out from Garden City, Kansas, and was working for the soldiers at Fort Duchesne. His position was abolished and he came over to see if my grandfather could use help in his little store. He said, "I guess you could be the post master." Shortly after that they got the letter from the postal department saying, "Hey, we got to have a more defined address, not just the Bridge." So, grandfather told him to put his name in, Mytons' name in and send it back to the postal department in Washington D.C. Well Myton scratched his name out and put the man's name in back in Washington D. C. at the postal department to be his name. Well it got back there and he reversed it again and put Major Myton in there. So that's how Myton got its name. That is the story of how Myton got its name. But prior to Myton, it was known as the Bridge.

It ran as a toll bridge for quite a few years. The government put a toll on it so they could help pay for the cost of the bridge. One spring, (of course in those days Duchesne River ran high, there was no diversions out of it, and what ever water came out of the mountain went down the river), they were afraid the river would wash the town out because Myton was down in the bottom land along the river. Some men came up and straight north of here came up on the river and put a big charge of dynamite in to split the river, but they did better than split the river, they took it all

around the other way and left the bridge high and dry. So then they still didn't have a bridge over the Duchesne River. By that time they decided they wanted to put a bridge down here just between Roosevelt. So they built the big steel bridge that was down here at the north end of Center Street. It was knocked down in the early 1950's.

Kathleen: Okay that was about Haydon Calvert and Sally Gore Calvert Morgan. His other grandparents were Christopher Columbus Cooper and Samantha Lambert Cooper. They came in 1908 from Arkansas.

Bud: They came in for the homestead when the Basin was thrown open for homesteading. They homesteaded a place out in Pleasant Valley. They later sold that and moved into town and lived here and farmed. In those days you did what you had to do to get by. There was not too much steady work, just what ever came your way and feel lucky that you had a job and could make a dollar.

This is a picture of my grandfather right out of the civil war. (show's me a picture of his grandfather) You can tell he looks like he's fifty years old there. That war took a toll on him. That's Grandfather Cooper.

Elaine: How many children did your grandfather have? What was your father's name?

Bud: Lee Cooper, Columbus Orville Lee Cooper was his given name. All his life he went by Lee Cooper. My mother was Sally Calvert. They came from Whiterocks. They ran a little store. My grandmother built a hotel in 1902 in old town. Later as Myton developed they decided it should be up on the bench here. They moved everything out of old town and came up on the bench, (Main Street).

Kathleen: They came from Harrodsburg, Kentucky. That's where pretty much everybody that started in Whiterocks, came from Harrodsburg. I've been researching this. Pardon Dodds, and the Merimons, they all came from Mercer County, Kentucky, Harrodsburg. They all went to Whiterocks. They must have all known each other.

Bud: The Cooper family came from Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Elaine: Were your parents born in Myton?

Haydon: They followed their parents here. My father was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas. My father was eighteen years old when came out. He came out first, before the rest of the family came, him and his brother Joe Cooper. They came out and then the rest of the family came a year later.

Kathleen: Was Sally Calvert already out here?

Bud: Yes, she was. They didn't know each other at that time.

Elaine: How many brother and sisters did you have and what were their names?

Bud: I had four sisters; my dad had a daughter before he came out here and left her in Arkansas. That was Mable Cooper. My mother had married a man in the military at Fort Duchesne, and they divorced a few years later, and they had a daughter, Anna Hunt. So I had two half-sisters.

Kathleen: Her name was Anna Calvert Hunt. His mother's first husband was named Colonel Charles Hunt.

Bud: My full sisters are Sallie Cooper and Ruth Jean Cooper. Anna and Mable were my half sisters.

Elaine: What are some experiences you had when you were a child?

Bud: Well, the experiences growing up here was so much different than today. There was nothing put in a can to entertain us. We had to entertain ourselves by playing games, ice skating and roller skating. A game of hockey up and down Main Street with a plain old stick and milk can. We'd knock it up and down the street to play hockey. All day long the kids in town would gather to play. There were no cars on Main Street. But, that was the way life was, you made your own fun, whatever you could find to do. Sometimes it was bad, but sometimes it was good. We were pretty good kids.

Elaine: Did you live on a farm?

Bud: I lived on a farm in the summer time. My father had a farm up in Arcadia. We would go up to the farm in the summer and then come back to Myton in the winter to go to school. That was kind of a routine until I graduated out of school. Then I went into the Military.

Elaine: Do you remember your teachers?

Bud: I remember a teacher by the name of Mrs. Tuttle. I think she taught everybody in the world at one time. It seems like she was there forever. She was really a good teacher. She took interest in the kids. She even took interest in the kids out of school. She was just a pretty nice person.

Elaine: Where was the school located?

Bud: On Main Street where they are today. They would just tear down the old ones and build new ones as time moved along. Myton is and was a government town site set up by the government, a mile square. Duchesne, Myton and Randlett were government town sites set up by the government. In these town sites they set aside blocks for schools. The rest of it you could buy the lots, but the school lots were dedicated school lots They couldn't be sold. That's why the schools were there. They were built on the land that belonged to the school districts. In the winter as kids we would skate up and down the Duchesne River. It would freeze over solid, and we could skate for miles up and down the river. That was the winter entertainment. The summer entertainment, we helped the parents with whatever they had to do, raise the garden or put up the hay, or milk the cows. Everybody helped. It was a good life. I wouldn't have traded it for anything.

Elaine: I think it would have been easier living in those times than it is now.

Bud: Nobody had a lot. Very few had anymore than the other person. You were just expected to do that when you were growing up. You helped your parents make a living, what ever needed done.

About 1908 or 09, after the bridge had been left high and dry, they decided to move the town up here on the bench. My grandfather came up here and bought the store on Main Street that I now have my museum in. It was called the Calvert Store. Later, he started to get sickly, and a friend I think from Colorado came over and bought half interest in the store. When my grandfather died it went to the Calvert and Waugh Store. That mans name was R. E. Waugh.

We had one big bank, but there were two on paper. One never really got opened. It was in the 1920's when they tried to get it open and then the Depression hit and it never really functioned as a bank. The building was there until just a few years ago. I have the teller's cages and the bank vault in my museum.

The Myton State Bank was a big two story building. It was built in 1910. That's when my grandfather built the store. Everything was built about that time. Even this house was built at that time. 1910 was when they moved here. It was due to alfalfa seed. This was an old mill over here (there's a large old mill across the road from the Cooper's home); it was an alfalfa seed cleaning mill over there. That was a farmer's mill. Ross' mill up here on the corner and that was an alfalfa seed cleaning mill. Down the street two blocks was another mill that was put in down there in 1910. That was the big thing, alfalfa seed. That kind of brought the town along.

Elaine: Did the road come right through Myton?

Bud: It came right down to this corner and then turned right here and back across the river and over Highway 40. That was the way it came through until in the 1950's when they built the bridge up here where it is now.

I was in the service station in the morning. It was about forty below zero here, a cold, cold morning. We were getting a little oil activity back in the 1950's. The seismograph trucks that went out and tested with their seismograph sound equipment to find where the oil was, and it was a cold morning and this seismograph truck hit the bridge down here. It just shattered like glass. It was so cold that those big beams just shattered and it dropped right down. Of course the river was frozen over solid so it just went down. I was in the station and I heard that noise and I couldn't figure out what in the world, what kind of a racket was that. Pretty soon a guy came by and said a truck hit the bridge and it just shattered, fell to pieces. It was a steel bridge, and it was just like glass, just shattered.

Elaine: Do you have anymore memories of early things of this area when you were young?

Bud: Thinking back, I was probably ten or twelve years old when on Labor Day, a guy came through with an airplane. They had a celebration. At that time we had a ball diamond and a rodeo grounds down here. He lit on the rodeo grounds down there. That night for celebration, he went up with his plane at night and was putting off fireworks and caught his plane on fire. We had what we called the "Airport Hill" right below town here. He thought he could dip the tail in the river to save it but then he thought that was dumb, so he landed on the hill up there and the plane burned up. That was quite an experience to see.

Elaine: I heard that the first plane to land in the Basin was in this area.

Bud: Yes that was in 1919. It lit out here on the South Myton bench. It was quite an event. It was an event because it was the first plane to come into the basin. It came in on a Saturday. Everybody from Duchesne, Altamont, and all around Roosevelt came over on the bench to watch the plane come in. They were there in horse and wagons, maybe a few cars. The plane didn't show up, so the people thought that Myton had pulled a hoax on them to get them to come to Myton, so they would shop when they were here. No plane would come. Myton was on a phone-line that came from Price to Myton to Fort Duchesne and to Vernal. So, we were on a phone-line here and they had called from Heber. They had trouble in Heber and the plane had to land out there. It was an old World War I DeHavilland Bomber. They got it going, so they said we'll be there Sunday. Sunday the people were all back up there, and the plane came in. Some of the old timers, that was before my time, told about the horse and buggies up there and the plane coming in, it was a regular rodeo up there. The horses were running and bucking scared to death of that thing coming out of the sky roaring in. But, that was a big event that happened. It was an old Dehavinlin Bomber and it was nose heavy without a bomb load in it. The co-pilot, it was a two seater, one behind the other open cock pit, the co-pilot had to crawl out and set in front of the tail to balance the plane to take off and land with out a bomb load in it, because it was so nose heavy it would nose over coming in. Luckily a few people had cameras and got a picture of it coming in with the co-pilot sitting on the tail.

Elaine: What kind of history do you remember about Fort Myton.

Bud: Well, Fort Myton was never a fort. That was a Standard Oil production. Isaac Sanders had the dealership for Standard Oil for the Basin. At that time the highway was going around up here. He built that station and another one in Wyoming and built a simulated fort around them. It was just a tourist attraction. I ran it and built it up; I had it for ten years. I'd have people come in for coffee and ask about when it was a fort. That whirligig that goes around up there, they built that at the time and it's never been oiled or greased since it was built in the 50's and it still turns. Any little breeze turns that thing around. Those cups that turn on it are radar domes off from airplanes. They were called radar domes off from World War II aircraft.

Elaine: What are some other places or buildings that are historical in Myton, I know there was a hotel.

Bud: This was a hotel, where we are here. It was built to start with to make a grist mill, flour mill, but before it got into production, a guy bought it and made it into a hotel. It was a hotel until in the 1960's. They converted it to apartments upstairs and bedding quarters downstairs here. They added on to this place.

Elaine: What was the name of it?

Bud: The Fisher Hotel was the first name of it.

Elaine: Wasn't there a couple other hotels also?

Bud: My grandmother had one down on Main Street, the Calvert Hotel, which later became known as the Funk Hotel until World War II. Then it closed. Everything kind of vanished out of Myton. It kind of went on hard times. So the hotels didn't operate. They operated this as kind of a boarding house through those years. There were seven rooms upstairs, and they fed down here. This table came in from Kentucky in the early days. My Aunt had it in a boarding house down below Price, and Butch Cassidy has eaten at this table. It was on his pass from going up into Wyoming and back. It was on his route. He used to stop at the boarding house.

There is a lot of history in our area. That's why my wife and I got started when we had the Fort up there. On our bicentennial year we got really interested in having our first Myton Day's Homecoming. We wrote everybody that we could find names of that ever lived here or been here and sent them letters to come to our Myton Homecoming. It's surprising to see people come from all over to come to it.

What got me started on it was digging to find out why things happen. I've got thinking, why this here, why that there. One of the biggest wonderments was a place they call "The Wells". It's half way between Myton and Nine Mile, Nutters Ranch. It was a point where they needed water for their freight wagons, and horses. Other than that they had to carry barrels of water, which is added to their wait. So, they went out in the desert out there and said, "This is half way, we'll dig a well here." And, they dug a well two hundred ten feet deep, by hand, pick and shovel, and finally hit water. It wasn't good water, but the horses could drink it and they could bathe in it. It was quite heavy with alkali. But, that made me think, what fortitude they had. What ever they needed at that time; they figured out a way to do. They didn't go get a government grant or get somebody to tell them how. It was 'Yankee Ingenuity'. That was a wonderful world for our country to rely on Yankee ingenuity. But, they've taken it away from us now. You can't use Yankee ingenuity anymore, you have to have some wise guy draw you a drawing and some attorney approve it and sign a whole bunch of papers and get it approved by the state and the county and the local commission, and the whole thing. That's why our country grew and was so wonderful, because we had Yankee ingenuity. Nobody said you can't do it. I miss that. I was one of those guys who could figure out what I needed to do. But now I can't do it, because they won't let me. I have to get a permit and a drawing. I don't know where we would have been today, if we'd had our regulations a hundred years ago that we have today. It wouldn't have been a very nice place to be. People put their back bone and their shoulders to it and got it done.

Elaine: That's why I love history. Everybody worked hard and that was just their way of life.

Bud: Like I said; the Wells out there, barren and no water for thirty miles in any direction. But, that's where they needed water so they dug a well there. Nobody told them they couldn't hit water. There must be water down there if we dig far enough. That was their attitude. It's a wonderful attitude. But that kind of got my wife and I into history.

Elaine: Tell me about your wife. When did you meet your wife and what were the circumstances?

Bud: My wife's sister and brother in-law, Wes and Fern Jensen, lived down here. They had the dance hall here in Myton. My wife had come up from California. They were born in the Basin, but her dad had taken them back to California. He'd go down there in the winter and come back

in the summer and run grocery stores and freight. But my wife had come up to visit her sister. This Saturday we were all down to the dance and I met her down there. I think it was two weeks later we were married. And, they said it wouldn't work. It only lasted for fifty six years.

Elaine: Where is the dance hall?

Bud: Right down here. It's a community hall now. The American Legion bought it and run it for many years and then when television came on, dancing quit. Everybody stayed home and watched television. And then we didn't have enough money to fix the roof and so we deeded it to the Myton City because they could get grants and things and maybe fix it up. So they have it fixed up and a very nice hall down there now.

Elaine: Dance halls were very popular; dancing was a popular activity.

Bud: Over in Vernal, they had that one on springs. That was a wonderful place to dance. There was a dance hall at Victory Park, there was one up in Arcadia called Ravola Park and there was one up in Altamont on the river up there.

Elaine: So, you loved dancing?

Bud: Oh yeah, that was entertainment. That was the only thing that you had. You didn't have television. You had radio, but you could get radio every day of the week. Even when the Legion bought it, we were dancing Wednesdays and Saturdays with big crowds.

Elaine: Did you have live bands?

Bud: Yes! A lot of them were local bands and a lot of them we brought in out of Provo. Then, we had Jim Reeves the western artist. We had him play down here. I met Jim before in Vernal when he played over there. He was with my dad's cousins, an orchestra that had come out. I had a service station on the corner up here and the next morning after the dance he came up to my service station. He wanted to know if I had a key, he'd left his hat down there, so we got the key and went down and got his hat. It was laying up on the piano. He had to run for his life down there. People wouldn't let him quit. "More, more, more," they'd shout. Finally the orchestra just started dispersing one at a time. They just loved him. Those were the fun days.

Elaine: Where did you and your wife live when you were first married?

Bud: We lived with my father here in town. My dad and I were running a service station here. My mother was still alive at that time. They had sold their ranch so they gave us some money. My wife and I built a little home over here about two blocks from here. We lived there a few years and then I went into Salt Lake a year or two and then we came back. I was in the service station business all my life. I was a mechanic. Then we went to California for a short time in 1948 or 49. I went down there and worked for the North Island Maple Station. I didn't like that so we came home. Then we tried Salt Lake for a short time, and didn't like that so we come back. It seemed like I had a rubber band hooked to me and after so long of time it would snap me back here.

Elaine: It must be a great place to live, a quiet little community.

Bud: It's nothing great but it's peaceful and not too much hub-bub.

Elaine: Who are some of the early people from Myton?

Bud: The first five families to Myton and The Bridge in the days before it was known as Myton were my grandparents, the Calverts. They were the first white settlers in here, the first family in Myton. Then there was a family of Dart's, Todd's, and Odekirk's. They were in and out of here through their lives. The kids would have to move away because there is no work here but the older family stayed until they finally passed away.

The Odekirk family was probably the first LDS family in Myton. Ike Odekirk ran The Wells. We called it The Wells out there where the water station was. They had a little trading post there and lodging, and café. They ran that for quite a few years. They had quite a few boys. Then they came to town and started in the store business. He had some stores here. As the story goes he was the first LDS Sunday School teacher before they had a church. They had a little building that they divided with a curtain that pulled across. One denomination was on one side and the Mormons on the other. They were in the same building. They did what they had to do to get along.

Elaine: So you raised your children here. How many children did you have?

Bud: I had seven children. I had Danny; he worked for the tribe for many years over there in their computer department. He was a computer technician. Then Kathleen, and then Jeri Ann was the first three. Then we had twins, Lewis and Sallie. Lewis works over on the other side of Roosevelt, a trucking outfit over there. Sallie works for a bank in Salt Lake training personnel. Then I have a son Arney. He lives in Provo. He works for an outfit that makes diamonds for diamond drill bits. Bettie is the youngest. She works in Salt Lake. They all live either in the Basin or the Salt Lake area. They usually come home for Christmas and Thanksgiving. This table lets out ten feet. The families getting too big; I had to cut them off. They can't have anymore kids because you can't get them up to the table anymore, so they have to stop now.

Elaine: You'll have to get another ten foot table for the next generation.

Bud: Ones enough.

Elaine: This is a nice home to come home to for the holidays.

Bud: Yeah, and there's five bedrooms here. When they come out for things we can bed them down here. There's a bedroom in the basement. I keep thinking, "What am I doing in this big place rambling around by myself?" Of course Kathleen's here with me. It seems like a wasted space for one guy.

Elaine: Well this place has a lot of history. That's got to mean something.



Bud: Yeah, it has a history to it. That's a picture of my wife over there. ( points to a picture on the wall)

Elaine: Her name was Ludy and she was the mayor before Kathleen?

Bud: Look at the expression on her face. She's thinking about how this can be done. "We can get it done, I just have to think of how to do it here." She started the first housing authority in the basin. It took her three years to get that through headquarters over in Denver with communications back and forth, and jump through their hoops and dot their eyes and all that. She finally got the housing authority going. That brought quite a bit of money into the basin. They were paying the rent for these low income people, helping them. The government paid their rent, or a good portion of it. In some cases they paid it all, so single mothers could go to school and learn to do something.

I'll never forget right after she started this up. Lynn Labrum, he's the owner of L and L Motor Company in Roosevelt, he had known Ludy before we were married. They went to school in Roosevelt. We always had to stop and talk. I met Lynn on the street one day and he said, "What's Ludy doing now?" I said, "Well Lynn, she started the Myton Housing Authority." He said, "I've heard of housing authorities. How does it work?" So I explained it to him. The first thing he did was cock his head back and he said, "That brings a lot of money into our area." He was the only person that I ever heard make mention to the fact that it wasn't just a good thing for the people that it was helping, but it helped the merchants. They had money to spend on groceries and shoes and cars that they didn't have before. He was the first guy and the only guy to ever recognize it wasn't just to help people; it helped the whole area.

She started that and got it going. It finally expanded over into Vernal. Roosevelt decided they would start one. They have an authority over there. But it was kind of amusing, and when Ludy was trying to get it going, she tried to get it out in the counties. It kind of went in parcels. You could have a big parcel or a small parcel, but the county said, "We don't have poor people; we don't have a need for that." It has helped so many people, and it's still helping people. I'm not a great fan for government funding but we've got to have some of it, or things can't get done. It's like a bank for us to operate out of, to keep things going.

Elaine: How long was your wife mayor?

Bud: Twelve years I believe it was. Then her health got bad and the lady in charge in Denver, I don't think she really liked Ludy too much. She was always giving her a hard time. You see the look on her face. (points to the photo) She's thinking, "Who needs help?" She couldn't go by the written thing. Maybe these people were living some place or getting by but here's one that doesn't have a place to live. They're living on the street. She'd move them up (on the list) and find a place for them. They didn't like that in Denver because you don't break the rules. But, my wife couldn't understand it. If you need help, you need it now. These people have a place they're living, even though they're going to move out of their family's home into something, but this one down here has nothing, needs help now. They didn't like that. But, that was her philosophy, the one that needed it the worst should get it. That's what she's thinking in that picture, "How can I help that person. There's got to be a way to do it."

Elaine: I bet she was a great person.

Bud: She was a neat gal.

Elaine: She kind of reminds me of your daughter Kathleen. I've read newspaper articles about her. She gets things done.

Bud: That was where she got it. Kathleen worked in the city office under her (Ludy) as mayor. She was her secretary there in the office. She got a good education from her mother.

Elaine: What were some things your children did for activities growing up in Myton?

Bud: When we had the Fort, we was running the Fort up there, of course the three older ones, Kathleen, Jeri Ann, and Danny, they were gone. But, my younger four were there at the Fort with us. They participated in running the place. We had the little café in there. When I bought that place there was no café in it, it was just a service station. I converted one lube bay for a café. I said, "We need some place in Myton to have a place to have a cup of coffee and a piece of pie and stop and rest." So, that's what I did. It was called Bud's Fort Myton. It looked a lot different. It had a big canapé out over it. It looked more attractive looking at the time. My four younger kids, the twins and the two younger ones in later years, they said, "Dad, looking back, what a wonderful place that was to grow up." They had the river there, the two boys; they just run that river fishing and swimming like Huckleberry Finns. But, I don't even think you could get on it today. Somebody would come along and kick you off the river if you went down there today to wade a cross the river or swim. Somebody would say, "Oh, you can't do that, that's mine." The girls, they worked in the café. Bettie, the littlest one, she was on roller skates. She roller skated all around, she'd wait on people, she'd run the till, all on roller skates at nine or ten years old. It was just an experience that I wouldn't miss for a million dollars. To see those kids, and I had the service station there, and my boys would always come home from school, and I'd say, "Well, there's a couple of tires in there to fix." The story is, "Dad always kept all the tires and never fixed a tire and then we'd get home from school, we'd have to fix the tires." I'd done fifty during the day. I'd always have something for them to do so they would know what it was like to work. It was a fun time.

Our home was on the back of it, all attached as one. We had a four bedroom home back there. One bedroom was for the boys. It was a big bedroom. Then we had a pool room where the kids could play. We just lived right there. We didn't have to get up and go to work. When we got up, we were at work. I built a laundry-mat on and had put in a trailer park. I had beauty shop in there. It was all in one conglomeration there. I said, "They don't need to leave Myton." When we first got things going, we made an order out for supplies and we had everything in there. If somebody would come in and ask me for something and I didn't have it, I'd go tell Ludy, "I just had a guy ask for this." She says, "Oh, that's only one." I said, "That's one guy, he'll be back. If we would have had it, he would be back the next time. So, we got to have at least one of anything in that book you can get in here." That was our philosophy. Maybe you'd never sale it, but it was there if somebody come looking for it, some little odd thing you know. That was the way we run it. It was quite a time. The children enjoyed it. They looked back and say, "Gosh, we thought we were so picked on. We couldn't go play." They see it now that it was fun.

Elaine: What were some of the community events?

Bud: Baseball was a big event in the whole Uinta Basin. Every little town had a baseball team. Every Sunday they played ball in the afternoon. We'd go to Vernal and play. Vernal would go to Duchesne. Somebody organized it so you'd know where you were going to play the next week-end. When we left town, the town went with us. That was the entertainment. That was what they had. It was a great thing.

Elaine: Did you participate in the UBIC? Could you cut a cross and go straight to Fort Duchesne?

Bud: Not anymore. When the old wooden bridge was left high and dry that was down there you could go through. But now you go out here a mile out of town and turn right and you can go right on down to Fort Duchesne that way through Independence and down that way. I can remember when I was just little, six or seven years old going from our ranch to Fort Duchesne with the wagon and pitching a tent over there and stay for three days over there. We'd watch the baseball games, the dances and the horse-pulling. At that time they had some buildings that had petrified dinosaur bones and turtles and things like that and they had a little Museum over there. In the night they would have dancing, of course I was little then, but my sisters and the older people would have a dance over there. It was quite an event.

Kathleen: I think it's interesting when they had the Armistice Day parade. World War I was over.

Bud: We have pictures of the soldiers walking right up this street here in a parade. They were having a big celebration for the war being over.

Kathleen: Tell them about the phone situation, dad. Roosevelt didn't have a telephone.

Bud: The phone line went from Price to Nutter's Ranch, from Nutter's Ranch to Myton, Myton to Fort Duchesne, and Fort Duchesne to Vernal. That was the route. When World War I was over, Roosevelt didn't have a phone, so, a lot of my family got in their cars and went over to Roosevelt to tell them the war was over. We have some pictures when they went over in carloads to tell them the war was over.

Elaine: I bet that was a great memory for a lot of people.

Bud: It was quite an event. See, there were no phones. Nobody had a phone in their home. There was always a phone office where you went and made your phone calls from. You didn't have them in your homes. So, that's why they had to go to Roosevelt to tell them World War I was over.

Elaine: Tell me what the Myton Hoax was.

Bud: Well, that was a story my wife concluded that it was just a story and not a happening. William H. Smart came out here with the LDS Church seeking a place to build a temple out here

some place. He spent years in the Basin going here and there by horse and buggy. The Depression hit and all the banks went closed. He wanted to buy interest in the Myton Bank. They wouldn't sell him interest in it. Supposedly he stood on their front steps and said, "You'll see the day that only jack rabbits and tumble weeds roll down your street." That was the story that went. After my wife got searching his diary, she never found one mention of such a thing as that. But the closest thing that came to it was when Duchesne County was formed; was cut off from Wasatch County. They were going to have a County Seat. Well Myton was the biggest town in the county at that time. Of course people in Myton thought, "We're the biggest town, we'll become the county seat." William Smart goes to Duchesne and Altamont, and got all those people to ban together to make Duchesne a county seat. Roosevelt thought they were going to get it, and Myton was sure because they were the biggest town, they were going to get it. So everybody from Myton didn't go out to vote, but everybody from the upper country went out and voted for Duchesne. So, Duchesne County got the county seat.

Kathleen: Roosevelt blamed it on the "rubble rousers of Myton". I found some old newspapers. In the Roosevelt Standard it said, "The rubble rousers from Myton came over and are trying to get people to not vote for Roosevelt for the seat." So there was quite a stir going on about it in that time in history. Then behind everybody's back was William Smart going around evidently.

Bud: Gathering his troops.

Kathleen: Actually Myton would have been the perfect center of the county. Well, we live with it.

Bud: A case of apathy where the people here were so sure they were going to get it so why go vote.

Elaine: I've always been so surprised to look at pictures of Myton in earlier days to see how big it was. The streets were full of businesses and people walking along the boardwalks.

Bud: When we go over to the Museum you'll see pictures of Myton from its beginning to its peek to its bottom.

Elaine: Was it hard to see it disappear?

Bud: I haven't thought about that part of it. It comes and goes.

Kathleen: When I've been doing my research, that's what I find, is I'm just thinking, "They had such high hopes in that era. Myton's going to be a big thing." I've wondered that myself, how some of those kids that were fifteen years older than dad, to watch it just fizzle out. It would have been hard.

Bud: But you know, as you're growing up, you don't worry or think about those things. This is just life I'm going through. What ever comes, you accept. When you're younger, that's pretty much your philosophy. What ever comes, comes, and we'll handle it. I don't think we worried

too much when we were younger. But, I worry today way more about our world than I ever did in my life time.

Elaine: What have been some community issues and how they were resolved?

Haydon: A little interesting fact there; there was a man in town here by the name of Orry Miller. He ran a hardware store in town. Back in the late 1930's or early 1940's they were having elections for governor. He decided to run for governor. We had a big water tank that sit at the head of Main Street up here. He had his name, 'Orry Miller for Governor' painted on that water tank up there. He didn't make it in the 'governorship' but then he made a bold run at it anyway. We were going to have a governor in Myton.

Kathleen: What are some civic issues you've been through dad, like getting the water system in and the sewer?

Bud: Well they just happened.

Elaine: Somebody made it happen. You were probably one those people who made it happen.

Kathleen: We used to have wooden pipe. When was that?

Bud: That was back in the early 1900's when the water tank set up here, and they'd pump the water out of the river up to the water tank to get pressure for the town. You'd pump it and store it high, then, it has gravity flow. The old lines were old wooden water lines. They were like an oak barrel. They were made out of oak and they were hollow. Then they were wrapped with wire so when they would expand, they would tighten up and hold water. That was all over the country. That was a common thing.

Kathleen: Tell her about Marshal Delanty dad. We had a heck of a bootlegging problem at one time.

Bud: He was the marshal in town and they were having trouble with bootlegging going on in town. They had a still working in a building here. He was going to get rid of the bootleggers so he blew up the building. Set dynamite and blew it up. I have the story from the newspaper.

Kathleen: It was funny to have the story of Marshal Delanty dynamiting Myton in the middle of the night. He scared the heck out of everybody. Then they had this whole long story like they used to write in the old days, and right below it, it say's, 'Position of town marshal declared vacant.' They weren't too hot on him blowing up there buildings to get rid of the bootleggers. That was before your time dad. In your time...

Bud: In my time it was peaceful and quiet and no excitement. Everything was really good.

Kathleen: Tell her about when you joined the service. What was the town like when you got back?

Bud: It was a mess until I got back and got it fixed.

Elaine: Tell me a little about going to the service and where you served.

Bud: World War II broke out and I was still in high school. Me and a teacher got in a disagreement in my senior year. The principal wanted me to apologize to him, and I said, "No, I wasn't in the wrong. He was in the wrong. All the students knew it and I would not apologize. So I quit. I went to California and worked in a defense factory, aircraft factory, for awhile. Then I came home and helped my dad get the crops in one year. Then I went and enlisted into the Air Force. I spent three and a half years in the Air Force, but I never went over seas. I was mechanic on air craft and things. These air bases where they were flying out of training had to have mechanics, so that's where I got stuck on keeping the trainer planes flying.

Kathleen: You used to fly when you got home too daddy with your friends around here.

Bud: Some people decided to go to college on their GI Bill and I decided to learn to fly on the GI Bill. I learned to fly these small planes. I flew all the country around here just for the fun of it. I flew with Ted Olpin, Frank Lidell, Cal Monks, and Ted Thomas.

Kathleen: They dive bombed people on their machinery when they were doing crops.

Elaine: Did you do crop dusting?

Kathleen: No, they did crop scaring.

Bud: Oh, I chased a few of the threshers off their machines because I was down too low.

Elaine: Oh, you wouldn't do that.

Bud: No, that was somebody else in the back seat doing that. That was fun though. I never liked cross country flying really. It was kind of boring. But I could fly around here where I knew where people lived and knew about places and go look at it from the air. But, to just set out and go some place away, you just set there. It was like driving from here to Denver. If you've been there once the second trip wasn't too exciting, you'd just set there and drive.

Elaine: How did the Museum come about?

Bud: That goes back to our bicentennial year. We decided to have our big celebration. People decided to come home. Talking to people and finding out about things that happened and why did they happen. You'd find out why things were, and necessity usually was the mother of all inventions. What ever they needed, 'Yankee Ingenuity' took care of. By the bicentennial year we had already started. I had the Fort up there and I was getting these photos together and having a little picture museum up there. After we sold out I moved the pictures here.

The Odekirk family was one of the first families in Myton. He had been a boy here in town and worked at some of the stores in town. He'd gone to Salt Lake and went to work for a big drug store firm out there, Chrises or Walgreens or something like that. He worked there the rest of his life and retired from it. He's a pretty wealthy man, well off. He used to come out when I had the

Fort and like to go through and see the old pictures of his dad and people he knew of in the early days. It was a little history for him to go back through and so when I sold he come and found out I had taken the pictures. He came down here to see my wife and I. We visited, and he said, "Well, we got to have a place for your picture museum. We just got to have that." He said, "I'll go back to Salt Lake and see what I can do." So here he come back in about a month or so with \$10,500 and said, "Go down and buy your grandpas old store and put a museum in it." That's how it got started down there, even though we'd had it up there in the old jail house. We were trying to get something started.

Elaine: Where is the Mad Dog Saloon?

Kathleen: Three Legged Dog Saloon. That is the old Calvert Store where the museum is now.

Bud: It ran for a store until 1960's. Then it was a little saloon, beer hall and card room with pool tables. Then it became the Three Legged Dog Saloon when Kathleen's ex-husband owned it.

Elaine: A woman I talked to said she would come to Myton when she was a child and she'd walk along the boardwalk. She would go in this one particular store that had a tin ceiling. She would come in and stand and just stare at the tin ceiling.

Kathleen: That would be it. We saved the tin. We're remodeling it to restore some of that tin on the ceiling.

Elaine: Tell me about the Myton Free Press. When did it start and how long did it run?

Bud: It went for quite a few years, twenty years or something like that. When I was eight to ten years old it wasn't running then because we used to go play in the old Myton Free Press building as kids. It probably operated up until 1926.

The second Tolboe building they just tore down at the head of town, Petersons, that was the old Myton Free Press building. I hated to see it torn down. I hate to see history go.

Elaine: What do you enjoy most in life?

Bud: There's too much of it to name. Getting up in the morning is the most exciting thing to think I'm still here. I enjoy the museum and my friends. I go to the post office every morning and get my mail and Kathleen's mail and my sister's mail. Then I harass the postmasters down there. That's what I look forward to in the morning because we have a good time down there. I take internet jokes and funny stories from the computer down to share. We have a good time. They read them and laugh. That's their morning entertainment.

Elaine: What are your fondest memories?

Bud: Fifty six years with the same woman. Not many people were as lucky as I was.

Elaine: Were there any challenges you faced and overcome.

Haydon

: I guess the challenges I face were my health. I had poor joints. I've had four hips put in and two knees and a back surgery. That seemed like what I always had to look forward to next year.

Elaine: What have you learned from your life's experiences? From everything you lived through, what have you learned?

Haydon: To be an honest person, that's what it's all about in the long run, how you live your life. We're in too big a hurry anymore to stop and smell the roses. Like I told you I worked all my life as a mechanic in service stations. After I sold out Fort Myton, we moved here. I went to work for a guy out in the oil field pumping, checking wells and stuff like that. I didn't have any time schedule except to get out in the morning to get the job done. If it took all day fine, if it took two hours that was fine too. I finally said, I got a job I can stop and smell the roses because I wasn't under any pressure to hurry to get the job done. What ever time it took to do it, is the time you took. But still I would have time to smell the roses, go out and watch a jackrabbit or a prairie dog or watch the eagles soar over. All the rest of my life I was too busy working and making a living that I never got to stop and smell the roses. Of course I had roses all around me all the time I was living anyway. It's been a good life.